



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Information Technology and Single Window Systems

Overview

The new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) requires Parties to use a single window system that enables the electronic submission through a single entry. USMCA also has a new provision regarding the use of information technology to increase efficiency and accessibility of electronic systems, including electronic submission of customs declarations and electronic payments. There were no such provisions in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

References

- **USMCA**
 - *Final Text*: Chapter 7, Articles 7.9 and 7.10
- **NAFTA**
 - No provision.

Significant Changes in USMCA

Provision	USMCA	NAFTA
Use of Information Technology	New to USMCA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The USMCA requires Parties to employ technology across all processes to increase efficiency. This includes<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. making available all forms/documents required for import/export;ii. permitting the electronic submission of customs declarations;iii. permitting the electronic payment of duties, taxes, and fees; andiv. "endeavoring to allow" an importer to correct multiple import declarations through a single form.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No provision.
Single Window	New to USMCA <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The USMCA requires Parties to establish or maintain a single window system that enables the electronic submission through a single entry point of the documentation and data required for importation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No provision.

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Detailed USMCA/NAFTA Side-by-Side

Provision	USMCA	NAFTA
Use of Information Technology	<p>Article 7.9: Use of Information Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Party shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) use information technology that expedites procedures for the release of goods; b) make available by electronic means any declaration or other form that is required for import, export, or transit of goods through its territory; c) allow a customs declaration and related documentation to be submitted in electronic format; d) make electronic systems accessible to importers, exporters, persons engaged in the transit of goods through its territory, and other customs users in order to submit and receive information; e) promote the use of its electronic systems to facilitate the communication between traders and its customs administration and other related agencies; f) adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the electronic payment of customs duties, taxes, fees, or charges imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation and collected by customs and other related agencies; g) use electronic risk management systems in accordance with Article 7.12 (Risk Management); and h) endeavor to allow an importer, through its electronic systems, to correct multiple import declarations previously submitted to the Party involving the same issue through a single submission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No provision.
Single Window	<p>Article 7.10: Single Window</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each Party shall establish or maintain a single window system that enables the electronic submission through a single entry point of the documentation and data the Party requires for importation into its territory. 2. Each Party shall review the operations of its single window system with a view to expanding its functionality to cover all its import, export, and transit transactions. 3. Each Party shall, in a timely manner, inform a person that is using its single window system of the status of the release of goods, through the single window system. 4. If a Party receives documentation or data for a good or shipment of goods through its single window system, the Party shall not request the same documentation or data for that good or shipment of goods, except in urgent circumstances or pursuant to other limited exceptions set out in its laws, regulations, or procedures. Each Party shall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No provision.

Provision	USMCA	NAFTA
	<p>minimize the extent to which paper documents are required if electronic copies are provided.</p> <p>5. In building and maintaining its single window system, each Party shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) incorporate, as appropriate, the World Customs Organization Data Model for data elements;b) endeavor to implement standards and data elements for import, export, and transit that are the same as the other Parties' single window system; andc) on an ongoing basis, streamline its single window system, including by adding functionality to facilitate trade, improve transparency, and reduce release times and costs. <p>6. In implementing paragraph 5, the Parties shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) share with each other their respective experiences in developing and maintaining their single window system; andb) work towards a harmonization, to the extent possible, of data elements and customs processes that facilitate use of a single transmission of information to both the exporting and importing Party.	